

onsagers

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10 April 2008

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USA

Our ref.: P18966USPC/TL
Christian Abel

Your ref.:

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application serial No.:	10/550106
Inventor:	Bjarte Langeland
For:	Hinged and segmented pipe
Group No.:	3754
Examiner:	Brinson
Attorney docket no.:	P18966USPC

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PETITION TO WITHDRAW FINALITY OF OFFICE ACTION

This is in response to the Final Office Action , dated 3 April, 2008. The applicant hereby petitions to the Primary Examiner under MPEP §706.07(c) to withdraw the finality of the pending office action.

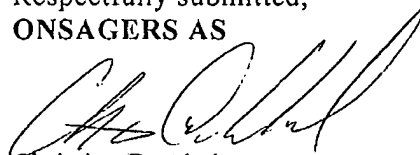
For the reasons stated below, the applicant respectfully believes the finality of the office action to be premature.

1. The present application is the National stage of PCT/NO2004/000072 filed 18 March 2004
2. The originally filed PCT application contained claims 1-12
3. The original claims 1-12, as well as the specification, were amended on 11 October 2004 concurrently with the filing of the Demand in the PCT phase of the application.

4. The original Office Action in the present US application was mailed on 10/09/2007. As pointed on to the examiner in a subsequent response, this office action considered the wrong set of claims, and did not consider the pending claims on the merits.
5. In the currently pending Final Office Action, the examiner agrees that the pending claims of this application were not considered in the original office action.
6. The current "Final" Office action is therefore the first office action considering the claims of this application. As stated in 35 CFR §1.113, a second or subsequent office action may be considered final. Since the current office action is in fact the first office considering the claims of this application, it is respectfully believed that the finality is premature.

Please charge and any and all necessary fees during the pendency of this application to deposit account 501898.

Respectfully submitted,
ONSAGERS AS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christian D. Abel', is written over the printed name.

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